

MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.
BISHOP OF OAKLAND



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July 29, 2019
St. Martha

Dear St. Joseph Basilica parishioners, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School and St. Joseph's Elementary School faculty, staff and parents:

I write today to inform you of some difficult news.

Late on the afternoon of Friday, July 26, 2019 officials of the Diocese of Oakland were made aware of allegations of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature by Father George Alengadan toward a female employee (not a minor).

Following diocesan policies, Father Alengadan has been placed on administrative leave while an investigation is conducted. This does not mean there is a determination of guilt or whether the allegations are credible.

Father Alengadan has also been directed to vacate his residence at St. Joseph and reside elsewhere until the investigation is completed. During this time, Father Paul Schmidt will serve as temporary parochial administrator for St. Joseph Basilica Parish.

The alleged victim also informed the Diocese she had filed a police report. The Diocese will cooperate with all police investigations.

The Diocese of Oakland takes all allegations of clergy misconduct seriously. As is stated in our official policy: "The Diocese of Oakland is committed to dealing with all reported allegations of sexual misconduct by clerics or diocesan employees in a prompt, comprehensive, and pastoral manner, with due regard for the rights of all involved."

Reports of abuse occurring in the Diocese's parishes or schools, including abuse of employees, can be reported to the diocesan chancellor, Stephen A. Wilcox, at swilcox@oakdiocese.org or 510.267.8334. Anyone with information regarding sexual abuse of children or vulnerable adults should immediately contact their local law enforcement authorities, as well as the diocesan chancellor.

I ask you to join with me in prayers for all involved, but especially for anyone who may have been harmed. Let us together ask for the intercession of St. Joseph, Patron of the Catholic Church, the Patron of this parish and its two schools, and a father for all who seek God's mercy.

Sincerely yours in our Christ,

+ Michael Barber S.J.

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber S.J.
Bishop of Oakland

For the greater glory of God